

A unsettling kind of secrecy continues to envelop the executive branch of our government, largely with the acquiescence of Congress and the courts upsetting the constitutional system of checks and balances, and now the FCC. How is it possible to have effective oversight in a democracy if not via an effective and diverse ownership of media not controlled by a few special interest groups? How will this oversight survive if the FCC under Michael Powell is allowed to remove the last vestiges of rules on media ownership of the airways owned by the people of the United States? What is happening to our rights? The people's rights, as James Madison said "to have a vigorous press, to which the United States owes much of the light which conducted [us] to the ranks of a free and independent nation." I oppose taking a vote that leads to more media consolidation. On June 2nd, I urge you to retain the current ownership rules.